



HR0444

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Tom  
4 Roeser; and

5           WHEREAS, Tom Roeser was born in Evanston in 1928; he was a  
6 graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Tom Roeser began his career covering politics in  
9 Minnesota, where he became a research-publicist for the  
10 Minnesota Republican Party; he subsequently served as an aide  
11 to two United States congressmen and a governor; he later  
12 returned to Chicago to launch the Quaker Oats Company's  
13 government relations department in 1964 and continued his  
14 education with post-graduate studies at DePaul and Loyola  
15 Universities; and

16           WHEREAS, In 1964, Tom Roeser was named manager-public  
17 affairs for the Quaker Oats Company; he was then promoted to  
18 Director of Public Affairs in 1966, serving in that capacity  
19 until 1969; he left Quaker temporarily to assume a role in the  
20 federal government as assistant to the Secretary of Commerce  
21 for Minority Enterprise from 1969 to 1970; he then recommended  
22 the abolition of his own agency, which was a controversial

1 challenge to the permanent bureaucracy, and was reassigned as  
2 Director of Public Affairs for the Peace Corps, where he served  
3 as a foreign service officer from 1970 to 1971; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1971, Tom Roeser returned to the Quaker Oats  
5 Company, where he served as vice president of government  
6 relations until his retirement in 1991; he subsequently  
7 established the firm of Thomas F. Roeser and Associates, where  
8 he represented a variety of clients in government relations; in  
9 2007, he formed the Chicago Daily Observer, the city's first  
10 internet-based five-day a week newspaper; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1994, Tom Roeser joined WLS Radio and became  
12 the host of "The Tom Roeser Show"; he quickly became a valued  
13 member of the WLS on-air lineup; he was heard primarily in his  
14 regular Sunday night slot, where listeners could participate in  
15 his radio 'plebiscites', weighing in on the political issues of  
16 the past week, and look forward to the week ahead; and

17 WHEREAS, Tom Roeser was a senior correspondent and talk  
18 show host for Catholic Family Radio, a network with outlets in  
19 Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee; he  
20 was also an occasional commentator on "Chicago Tonight" on  
21 WTTW-TV; and

22 WHEREAS, Tom Roeser was a member of the American Federation

1 of Television and the Radio Artists AFL-CIO; and

2 WHEREAS, Tom Roeser is survived by his wife, Lillian, and  
3 his children, Tom Jr., Michael, Mary Catherine, and Jeanne;  
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Tom  
8 Roeser; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Tom Roeser as an expression of our  
11 sympathy.